

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 YAOUND 00281 251807Z

64

ACTION AF-18

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 ISO-00 IO-14 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03

INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01 SPC-03

SS-20 USIA-15 OMB-01 DRC-01 /137 W

----- 089622

R 0251750Z JAN 74

FM AMEMBASSY YAOUNDE

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2470

INFO AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY BANGUI

AMEMBASSY LIBREVILLE

AMEMBASSY KINSHASA

C O N F I D E N T I A L YAOUNDE 0281

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, CF, CM

SUBJECTAC: US/CONGO RELATIONS

REF: (A) STATE 250133; (B) YAOUNDE 4157.

1. IN CONVERSATION JANUARY 25, GANGA (SECGEN, SUPREME COUNCIL OF SPORTS) MENTIONED TO ME THAT HE HAD SEEN FONMIN GANAO RECENTLY AND HAD RAISED QUESTION OF RESUMPTION US/CONGO RELATIONS.

2. GANGA REPORTED GANAO CONTINUES TO FAVOR RESUMPTION BUT HESITANT TO PUSH MATTER ON TWO COUNTS: A) PRESIDENT NGOUABI DOES NOT FEEL SECURE AND WOULD BE SUSPICIOUS THAT AMERICANS, IF PRESENT IN BRAZZAVILLE, MIGHT BE PLOTTING AGAINST HIM, B) GANAO HIMSELF WAS FOREIGN MINISTER AT TIME U.S. WITHDREW MISSION AND WOULD FEEL AWKWARD IN INITIATING A PROPOSAL. GANAO INDICATED POPULAR SENTIMENT IN CONGO WOULD OBLIGE GOC TO RESUME RELATIONS BUT IT DIFFICULT AT MOMENT TO ENVISAGE WHEN OR HOW.

3. I TOLD GANGA THAT THERE WAS NO CHANGE IN USG WILLINGNESS TO NORMALIZE RELATIONS WITH GOC IF LATTER SO DESIRED, WITHOUT PRE-CONFIDENTIAL

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CONDITIONS ON EITHER SIDE. I ADDED THAT FROM WHAT HE TOLD ME OF NGOUABI'S CONCERNS IT WOULD SEEM PARTICULARLY DESIRABLE THAT ANY INITIATIVE COME FROM CONGOLESE SIDE. I ADDED THAT AMBASSADOR MCKESSON IN LIBREVILLE WOULD BE MOST LOGICAL PERSON WITH WHOM TO EXPLORE MATTERS FURTHER SHOULD GOC BE SO INCLINED.

4. GANGA SEEMED SATISFIED WITH REPLY. HE OBSERVED THAT PRESIDENT NGOUABI HAD A VERY GOOD RELATIONSHIP WITH PRESIDENT BONGO, AND THAT WERE LATTER TO SUGGEST RESUMPTION OF RELATIONS THIS WOULD CARRY GREAT WEIGHT. A U.S. CONTACT IN LIBREVILLE, HE FELT, WAS MUCH WISER THAN A CONTACT IN KINSHASA.

5. GANGA AGAIN MENTIONED VARIOUS REQUESTS BY NGOUABI THAT HE RETURN TO BRAZZAVILLE TO ENTER GOVERNMENT. HE HAS NO INTENTION AT THE PRESENT TIME OF DOING THIS. WHILE BECOMING RESTIVE IN HIS PRESENT JOB HE SEES HIS IMMEDIATE FUTURE OUTSIDE OF CONGO. WERE HE TO RETURN TO BRAZZAVILLE AND NOT ACCEPT MINISTERIAL POST, IT WOULD BE ASSUMED THAT HE WAS IN OPPOSITION AND THIS IS NOT A COMFORTABLE POSITION.

MOORE

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NNN

*** Current Handling Restrictions *** n/a

*** Current Classification *** CONFIDENTIAL

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KINSHASA
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